Small Group Guide
***God's Heart. Know It. Live It.* (Part 4)**
***When Everything Falls Apart* | Isaiah 30-31**
11/15/26

Icebreaker

- Think of a time when someone tried to talk you out of something you knew was right — maybe through pressure, flattery, or a distorted version of the truth. What did that feel like, and how did you respond?

Overview:

This week's sermon walked us through a pivotal section of Isaiah — chapters 36 through 39 — where the narrative shifts from poetry to prose and introduces us to King Hezekiah of Judah. Surrounded by the threat of the Assyrian empire, facing personal illness, and ultimately stumbling in a moment of pride, Hezekiah's story holds up a mirror to our own lives and asks us a pointed question: Where do we place our trust? Through crisis, healing, and failure, the sermon reminds us that God sees us, hears us, and remains faithful even when we do not.

Key Takeaways:

- Chapters 36-39 serve as a hinge point in Isaiah, connecting the first half's predominant themes of judgment with the second half's predominant focus on God's deliverance and restoration.
- The Assyrian commander's speech was psychological warfare, designed to instill doubt and fear by using partial truths to undermine Hezekiah's trust in God. We face similar voices today.
- Hezekiah's response to crisis was to seek God first, in contrast to his father Ahaz, who sought alliances with surrounding nations. Hezekiah mourned honestly and prayed specifically, and vulnerably.
- God hears us. The word "hear" appears repeatedly throughout these chapters, and God's response to Hezekiah's prayer demonstrates that He is attentive to the cries of His people. Even faithful people stumble. After miraculous deliverance and healing, Hezekiah melted in the face of Babylonian flattery. Sometimes success is a greater test than suffering.
- God alone is the true deliverer. Hezekiah's story points beyond itself to Jesus Christ, the true King of Israel, whose saving grace is the only lasting answer to our broken condition.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Isaiah 36:1-21. The Assyrian field commander repeatedly asked Hezekiah's leaders, “On what are you basing your trust?" If someone asked you that question today about your own life, what would your honest answer be?

2. The sermon described the commander's speech as psychological warfare — using partial truths and fear to destabilize God's people. Where do you see similar tactics at work in your own life or in our culture today? What distorted truths have you found yourself tempted to believe?

3. Read Isaiah 37:14-20. When Hezekiah received the threatening letter from the Assyrian king, he spread it out before God and prayed honestly and specifically. What does this tell us about the kind of prayer life God invites us into? How does your own prayer life compare?

4. Read Isaiah 38:1-8. Hezekiah's illness was described as a different kind of crisis — personal, internal, and intimate, rather than an external threat. How have you experienced that different in your own life? Which kind of trial do you find harder to navigate, and why?

5. Hezekiah wept bitterly and prayed honestly to God when he received the news of his terminal illness. He did not hide his grief or put on a spiritual performance. What does this tell us about how God wants us to come to Him in our hardest moments?

6. God responded to Hezekiah's prayer by extending his life and giving him a sign of that promise. After his healing, Hezekiah wrote a psalm reflecting on his experience (see Isaiah 38:9-20). How do you typically respond when God delivers you from something hard? Do you have a practice of marking or remembering those moments?

7. The sermon asked: "Do we believe that God has the power to heal us — not just physically, but spiritually, mentally, and emotionally?" How would you answer that question honestly? Are there areas where it is harder for you to believe in God's healing power?

8. Read Isaiah 39:1-8. "The man whose faith stood firm against Assyrian intimidation now melts in the face of Babylonian flattery." Why do you think success and flattery can sometimes be more dangerous to our faith than suffering and crisis?

9. Hezekiah put his wealth and treasures on full display for the Babylonian envoys. The sermon connected this to how easy it is today to parade our blessings and successes before others, particularly on social media. Do you think that comparison is fair? How do you personally navigate the tension between gratitude and pride?

10. The sermon closed by pointing to Jesus as the true King and the only deliverer — the one Hezekiah's story was always pointing toward. In what ways does Hezekiah's story help you see your own need for a savior more clearly?